

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021



**Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA
530 Sixth Street
International Falls, MN 56649
218-283-9865**

**Broadcast live at 9:30 am on K104.1 FM
and live streamed on Facebook**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG – Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 458



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing be to God our
 2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -
 4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -
 striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have
 ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -
 Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry



a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -
 giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O
 va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -
 mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol



fore you, and we a - dore you.
 Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor.
 scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.
 giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911–1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt.
 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681
 Text © 1969 H. Francis Yardley and Frank J. Whiteley

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

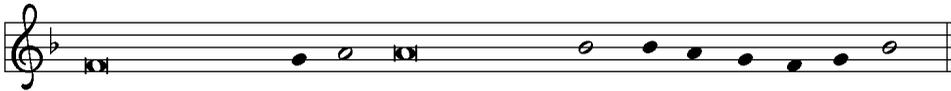
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



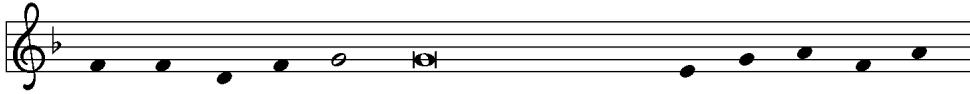
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



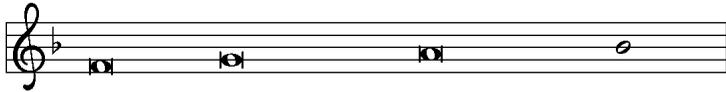
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *This is the Feast*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING – Genesis 1:1-5

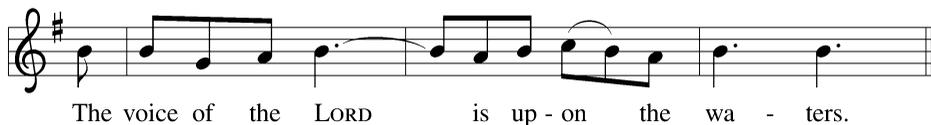
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY – Psalm 29

Refrain



¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. **Refrain**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. **Refrain**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. **Refrain**

⁷The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. **Refrain**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore. **Refrain**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **Refrain**

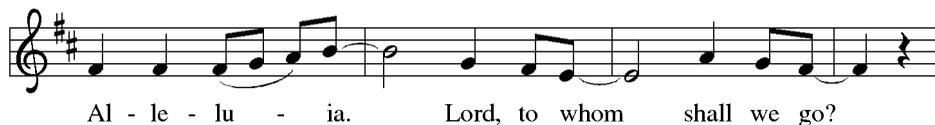
SECOND READING – Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL – Mark 1:4-11

Response – Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Peters

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Baptized and Set Free*

ELW 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

CREED

Along with the church, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are in trouble, want, or sickness; for the countless who are suffering with COVID-19; for medical workers; for people who are hungry or homeless, imprisoned or lonely; and that you grant health and wholeness to a world so filled with pain, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We you thanks, O God, for your love and forgiveness in baptism, which marks the beginning of our journey with our siblings in Christ to share the good news, serve all people, grow the church and strive for peace and justice in the world. We are grateful and offer our praise for all the baptized who have accompanied us and supported us and taught us throughout our days; that at our end we join with them in everlasting joy, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE – The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

NOISY OFFERING

A TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

Come and be fed.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG – All That We Have

Refrain



All that we have and all that we of-fer Comes from a



heart both fright-ened and free. Take what we bring now and



give what we need, All done in his name.

Verses



1. Some would re - ly on their pow - er,
2. Some - times the road may be lone - some,
3. Some - times when trou - bles are man - y,



Oth - ers put trust in their gold.
Of - ten we may lose our way;
Life can seem emp - ty, it's true,



Some have on - ly their Sav - ior,
Take cour - age and al - ways re - mem - ber
But look at the life of the Mas - ter,



Whose faith - ful - ness nev - er grows old.
Love is - n't just for a day.
Who lov - ing - ly suf - fered for you.

D.C.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – How Can I Keep from Singing

ELW 763



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

DISMISSAL – Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders Today

Presider	Pastor Mark Peters
Musician	Joe Belanger
Liturgist/Reader	Cathy Lucca
Sound Technician	John Faith
Live Streaming	Ted Saxton

Prayer Concerns – Jim Stavseth, Barb Leinum, Mollie Besch and family, Helen Knutson, Susie Battalion, Margaret Tyson, Doug Nagle, Tony Miller, Jim Ramnes, and Kathleen Ganter.

Our Radio Broadcast is sponsored today by Jim Leen in memory of Virginia Leen, Agnes Leen, and Stella Anderson.

Our radio broadcast and live streaming will continue at Zion. Sunday's service will be shown on KCC-TV Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm; Monday mornings at 5:30 am and 9:00 am. This is our local access station – Midco Channel 7.

Zion's office hours – The office at Zion is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am until 12:00 noon, and by appointment. Masks and social distancing are required in the building.

Noisy Offering – Today's Noisy Offering proceeds will be donated to the Backus Community Café. Thank you for your generosity.

May the God of all consolation be with the family and friends of Barb Howland, who died last Sunday. Please remember them in your prayers.

May the God of all consolation be with the family and friends of Shirley Frank's sister Flossie Knutson, who died Tuesday. Please remember them in your prayers.

The ministries of the church are still in need of your offering and monetary gifts during this pandemic. You can still mail your offering to the church, and, in addition to the Simply Giving program, we now accept donations through Pay Pal. The financial institution where you bank may also have an automatic bill-pay program for you to utilize. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the church.

Backus Community Café – Please note that the Backus dining room is closed, however, meals will be available for pick up/carry out. Guests should call Backus at 285-7225 before 4:00 pm on a café day to reserve a meal. Meals can then be picked up from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm from the east door of Backus (Door #3 facing St. Thomas Church) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Holy Communion – Holy Communion is available for you. Our Smart Team has approved a plan that, following the Sunday morning virtual Worship service, the church will be open until noon for people to come in and receive communion. Masks and physical distancing will be required inside the building. Signs and directions will also be posted. We will be using a prefilled kit that includes a wafer and grape juice.

These kits will also be available during our weekday office hours if you would like to pick them up ahead of time and participate in the sacrament from home while the service is being broadcast. Call the church with any questions.

Simply Giving – Simply Giving supports the spiritual practice of giving on a regular basis. This online service (direct deposit to Zion) provides more options and flexibility to grow giving, add income to the church, and enhance cash flow. Simply Giving can strengthen the financial health of Zion and help us in doing God’s work together. If you'd like more information or if you're interested in signing up, please contact the church office.

Zion’s Mission Statement

To Proclaim the Joy of Salvation Through Word and Sacrament

Zion’s Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Web Site – www.zionluthernintlfalls.org

Email – zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com

GOSPEL MESSAGE – A Hitch in the Story

Was it wildfire nerve? Unchecked audacity? Holy purpose? The hammering of parents' expectations? Maybe the privilege of being kin to Jesus? Or was it eccentricity as peculiar as his diet and wardrobe? What desire drove John to the wilderness, into the water of the Jordan? What ignited his fiery proclamation of repentance and forgiveness? What current pulled crowds from city and country into the water?

One can say, rightly, that it was ordained by God, compelled by the Holy Spirit, predicted by an angel. Yet there is a hitch in the story. Four easily missed but utterly important words gum up the works of any timid or tidy explanations: "I am not worthy" (Mark 1:7).

Something in John's four words opens the baptismal story to torrents of wonder, floods of hope, drenching relief and recovery.

For some years the two friends had been together through what we often call the thick and the thin. They knew this and that, bits and pieces, the here and there of one another's lives. And not only the trivial. They probed each other's shadowed corridors and crumbling edges. Still, there were secrets, withholdings. One day, for reasons wrapped with nothing but the ragged swaddling of unaccountable grace, one said to the other, "It has been such a long, lonely journey, carrying a suitcase filled with secrets, the shames and deceptions I've folded and packed." Then he began to tell. To confess. A repenting, a turning. His friend's eyes filled with tears that watered his cheeks and dripped into his lap. All he could say through the flood was, "I love you all the more."

Born literally of grace, breaking the dam of John's four words, "I am not worthy," is one stronger word, the word of the more powerful one: *forgiveness*. To John and to us who say, "I am not worthy," Jesus answers, "Yes, yes, yes, you are."